

59

[illegible]

D. M. Craven

11/20/85

May 18, 1933

Ms. Bonnie Joy Kaslan
President
Turkish American Association of
California
408 13th Street, Suite 532
Oakland, California 94612

Dear Ms. Kaslan:

Under Secretary Eagleburger has asked me to respond to your letter of May 2 on the subject of the August 1982 Department of State Bulletin article on Armenian terrorism which was part of a special feature on terrorism.

In a more recent issue (April 1983) of the same publication, the following editor's note was printed:

The article, "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile," which appeared in the August 1982 issue of the Bulletin, and its accompanying note and footnotes were not intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in U.S. policy.

You should know that the Administration is deeply concerned that certain Armenian extremist groups, invoking the tragic events of 1915 as a pretext, engage in terrorist activities against Turkish diplomats, private citizens, and Turkish establishments around the world. We believe there is absolutely no justification for terrorism and the United States Government strongly condemns all such acts. We are taking extensive measures to protect Turkish diplomats and installations in the United States. We are also working closely with other nations to eliminate the scourge of international terrorism.

[illegible]

-2-

Sincerely,

2/8
evsted

Dr. F

[illegible]

Assembly
California Legislature

COMMITTEES

- SELECTIONS REAPPORTONMENT AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
- FINANCE AND INSURANCE
- RULES
- UTILITIES AND COMMERCE
- WAYS AND MEANS
- POLICY RESEARCH
- MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



rec'd in S.
7/6/83

D.M. Green 11/20/85

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June 23, 1983

Dear Ambassador Elekdaq:

Your recent letter to members of the California Legislature concerning our efforts to commemorate the victims of genocide has deeply distressed us.

Each year for the past five years, our State Legislature has proclaimed April 24th an official State Day of Remembrance for all victims of genocide, with specific reference to those of Armenian descent. Each year those Resolutions have been passed without a dissenting vote. During the legislative discussion on these resolutions, there has never been any objection from our own federal government which clearly understands that such Resolutions are within the scope of authority of individual State governments.

Your personal attempt to dissuade the California Legislature from commemorating these tragic events of genocide not only seems inappropriate for a foreign emissary but also misrepresents the United States' historical position on this issue. Perhaps most importantly, your letter challenges the integrity of our state government's actions.

Our Democratic process provides for public debate on issues of importance to the citizens of California. To suggest that Resolutions passed by this body are blindly supported and destined to encourage terrorism is deeply offensive and disrespectful to all of us.

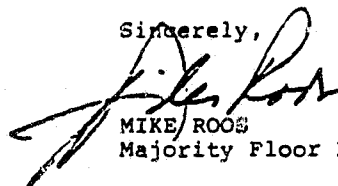
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Ambassador Elekdog
June 23, 1983
Page 2

While we share your desire for peace and goodwill between our nations, our State's right to recognize human rights should not adversely affect that relationship. The resolution in no way denigrates the Turkish people but only expresses our sadness about the tragedy and the refusal to recognize the genocide.

I hope this letter clearly states our intent in enacting these resolutions.

Sincerely,


MIKE ROOS
Majority Floor Leader

MYR:an

cc: Honorable George Schultz
United States Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20510

THE FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY MEMBERS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT OF THIS LETTER:

ART AGNOS
RICHARD ALATORRE
BRUCE BRONZAN
CHARLES M. CALDERON
PETER CHACON
STEVE CLUTE
GARY A. CONDIT
JIM COSTA
GRAY DAVIS
GERALD N. FELANDO
WILLIAM J. FILANTE
DAN HAUSER
TOM HAYDEN
TERESA P. HUGHES
PHIL ISENBERG

PATRICK JOHNSTON
RICHARD KATZ
JOHAN KLEHS
SUNNY MOJONNIER
BOB NALLOR
PATRICK NOLAN
JACK O'CONNELL
LOUIS J. PAPAN
STEVE PEACE
ERIC SEASTRAND
DON SEBASTIANI
JOHN VASCONCELLOS
MAXINE WATERS
BRUCE YOUNG

TURKISH CONSUL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 13, 1983

The Honorable
Michael Noos
The State Assembly
Sacramento, CA 95814

BEST COPY
AVAILABLE

Dear Mr. Noos:

In April of last year, I was distressed to learn that some California State lawmakers asked then-Governor Brown to issue a proclamation and lower state flags on April 23 as a commemoration to those Armenians who lost their lives during World War I.

Some lawmakers may be contemplating a similar course of action this year or in future years. But such proclamations seriously distort the history of the tragedies that befell Turks, Armenians and other ethnic groups during that War. There are a number of facts which, I believe, would be relevant to any consideration of such an activity.

No reliable evidence exists to justify the allegation that the Ottoman Empire, fighting for its survival during World War I, either planned or carried out a systematic massacre of its Armenian population. The Ottoman state in 1915 was the scene of a civil war within a global war--the civil war stemming from an armed uprising of Armenians seeking to impose establishment of an exclusively Armenian state in an area that was predominantly non-Armenian. ensuing hostilities, famine and epidemics claimed Armenian and Turkish lives; more than 2 million Turks perished during the same period. The misrepresentation of events in 1915 has been disputed by disinterested scholars, and the U.S. Department of State has stated that the events of 1915 are too ambiguous to justify a charge of genocide.

You may not only be unaware of the historical record, you may also be unaware that the current promotion of this unfounded allegation comes at a time when Armenian terrorists are expanding their network of operation in the United States, and their extremist followers are waging an extensive campaign of defamation and intimidation against all things Turkish, Turkish Americans, and friends of Turkey.

I am not going to enumerate all the harassments and threats to which Turkish diplomats, their missions and Turkish Americans have been subjected both here and abroad. But let me remind you that 26 Turkish diplomats have been murdered around the world by Armenian terrorists since 1973; four in the U.S.; three in your own state of California. The terrorists proclaim the same misrepresentation of history to justify their criminal acts as stated do in issuing proclamations on "Armenian martyrdom."

Sükrü Elekdağ
Ambassador of the
Turkish Republic

100-8867
 Department of the United States
 Bureau of Diplomatic Security
 District Office
 July 19, 1983

100-8867-1000
 Case Number
 Washington, D.C. 20505
 (202) 546-4000
 200-455-4000
 200-455-4000
 200-455-4000
 200-455-4000

64

ACROSS
 THE
 BOARD

The Honorable George Schultz
 Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to determine the United States State Department's official position on the Armenian massacre, circa 1910. My request is prompted by an inquiry by one of my constituents, who is under the impression that there is a State Department publication in existence denying that the massacre ever occurred. I need to know whether there is such a publication, and if so, whether it reflects official policy.

Any information you could provide to clarify this situation would be greatly appreciated. I look forward to your prompt response.

Cordially,

Bob Edgar
 BOB EDGAR

BE:dmm

RECEIVED STATE
 JUL 25 PM 4 44

1983 JUL 25 PM 4 44

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

1983 JUL 25 PM 4 32

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 DEPARTMENT OF STATE

D.M. Curran

11/20/85

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C:ED:Rajewski (draft) m h
L/EUR:JLevitt (draft) a
H:NCampbell m h
M/C:TEArnold (draft) a
HA:JBuncher (draft) m h

July 26, 1983

RECEIVED
BY S/S

D. M. Craver

11/20/55

2080 108-1013

DEPARTMENT OF STATE BULLETIN

April 1983

Editor's Note:

The article "Armenian Terrorism: A Profile," which appeared in the August 1982 issue of the Bulletin, and its accompanying note and footnotes were not intended as statements of policy of the United States. Nor did they represent any change in U.S. policy.

2080 108-1013

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

100-01-2240

S/S # 8325802

DATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
TRANSMITTAL FORM

FOR: Mr. William P. Clark
National Security Council
The White House

REFERENCE:

TO: Mr. Larry Speakes FROM: Mr. Daniel Crystal
DATE: April 26, 1983 SUBJECT: Armenian Genocide

WHITE HOUSE REFERRAL DATED: August 3, 1983 NSC # 155418

THE ATTACHED ITEM WAS SENT DIRECTLY
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION TAKEN:

- ☐ A draft reply is attached
- ☐ A draft reply will be forwarded
- ☐ Translation is attached
- ☒ An information copy of a direct reply is attached
- ☐ We believe no response is necessary for the reason cited below
- ☐ Other: *DMC* 11/20/85

REMARKS:

PA/PC/CM:MPensabene
8/18/83 x21299

Cleared: EUR:DMcClellan
PA:JO'Neil

Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

UNCLASSIFIED

(CLASSIFICATION)

SACRAMENTO ADDRESS
STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO 95814
(916) 445-7644

DISTRICT OFFICE ADDRESS
800 SO. NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90008
(213) 786-8042

800-27-0495

6326586

Assembly California Legislature



MIKE ROOS
MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER
ASSEMBLYMAN, FORTY SIXTH DISTRICT

August 26, 1983
Los Angeles

Mike Roos

4/2/85

Hon. George P. Schultz
United States Department
of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Secretary Schultz:

Thank you for your reply to my letter concerning the letter I and other members of the Legislature received from Turkish Ambassador Elekdag.

In your response you stated that an earlier article on American terrorism and its accompanying notes were not intended as statements of United States policy. However, while you did outline the administration's views on the issue of Armenian terrorist activities, your letter failed to detail the United States policy regarding the 1915 massacre of Armenians.

Does the United States officially recognize the occurrence of a genocide against the Armenian people by the Turks beginning in 1915?

What is the history of the official United States position of the events. Has its historical occurrence been recognized by the United States, and has that position ever changed? If so when and why?

As I am sure you are aware, there is a very large and concerned population of law abiding Armenian citizens in California who, I am sure join me in my desire to more fully understand the United States position on this important issue. I look forward to your early reply and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Roos

MIKE ROOS
Majority Floor Leader

MR:cs:p

71

UNITED STATES SENATE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 13, 1983

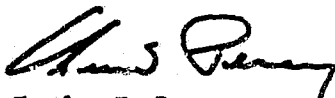
The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Enclosed are copies of S. Res. 241, "Expressing the sense of the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes," which was submitted by Senator Levin on October 7, 1983.

The Foreign Relations Committee would appreciate receiving coordinated executive branch comments on this resolution at an early date.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Percy
Chairman

CHP:kgg

✓ Enclosures

D.M. Crum

11/20/83

FROM IAP/WI

NOV 20 1983

RECEIVED

96TH CONGRESS
1st Session

S. RES. 241

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7 (legislative day, OCTOBER 3), 1983

Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. WILSON) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the foreign policy of the United States should take account of the genocide of the Armenian people, and for other purposes.

Whereas the Armenian genocide was conceived by the Turkish Ottoman Government and implemented from 1915 to 1923, resulting in the extermination of one and one-half million Armenian men, women, and children, the deportation of an additional five hundred thousand survivors, and the elimination of a two-thousand-five-hundred-year Armenian presence in its historic homeland;

Whereas the Armenian genocide is amply documented in the Archives of the United States, as well as of Austria, France, Germany, and Great Britain;

Whereas United States Ambassador to Turkey Henry Morgenthau organized and led protests by all nations, among them Turkey's allies, over Turkey's program of race extermination;

Whereas an organization known as Near East Relief, chartered by an Act of Congress, contributed some \$113,000,000 from 1915 to 1930 to aid the Armenian genocide survivors and, whereas, one hundred and thirty-two thousand orphans became foster children of the American people;

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was confirmed in Senate Resolution 359, dated May 13, 1920, which stated in part, "the testimony adduced at the hearings conducted by the subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have clearly established the truth of the reported massacres and other atrocities from which the Armenian people have suffered";

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide was also confirmed in House Resolution 148 which stated in part, "that April 24, 1975, is hereby designated as 'National Day of Remembrance of Man's Inhumanity to Man', and the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day as a day of remembrance for all victims of genocide, especially those of Armenian ancestry who succumbed to the genocide perpetrated in 1915, and in whose memory this date is commemorated by all Armenians and their friends throughout the world";

Whereas former President Jimmy Carter in a May 16, 1978, speech at the White House stated in part, "I feel very deeply that I, as President, ought to make sure that this (Armenian genocide) is never forgotten";

Whereas the United States, during the March 14 and 16, 1979, sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, voted in support of paragraph 80 in a report entitled, "Study of the Questions of the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide" which stated, "Passing to the modern era, one may note the existence of relatively full documentation dealing with the massacres of Armenians.";

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, an independent Federal agency, unanimously resolved on April 30, 1981, that, "the Armenian genocide should be included in the Holocaust Museum Memorial";

Whereas President Reagan in Proclamation numbered 4838, dated April 22, 1981, stated in part, "like the genocide of the Armenians before it, and the genocide of the Cambodians which followed it—and like too many other persecutions of too many other peoples—the lessons of the holocaust must never be forgotten"; and

Whereas the fact of the Armenian genocide has been documented, affirmed, and reaffirmed for over six decades; and

Whereas it has been the policy of the United States to acknowledge these historical events: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 President and the Secretary of State should, in formulating
3 and carrying out the foreign policy of the United States, recognize and take into account the genocide of the Armenian
4 people.
5

6 SEC. 2. It is further the sense of the Senate that the
7 President should direct his representatives, including the Permanent Representative of the United States to the United
8

1 Nations, to communicate at all appropriate times in interna-
2 tional forums the abhorrence of the United States Govern-
3 ment to the genocide of the Armenian people.

4 SEC. 3. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a
5 copy of this resolution to the President and the Secretary of
6 State.

○